

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A driver assistance system for motor vehicles, having at least one assistance function (12) that is to be used only under particular preconditions, characterized by an acquisition device (26, 28; 42, 44) for acquiring data concerning the locality in which the vehicle is traveling, and by a blocking device (38) for blocking the assistance function (12) if the acquired data indicate that the preconditions for the use of the assistance function are not met.
2. The driver assistance system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the assistance function (12) is a Low Speed Following function that controls the vehicle in such a way that it follows a vehicle traveling in front at a suitable distance, and that is also capable of being used at speeds below 30 km/h if the local conditions allow this.
3. The driver assistance system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the assistance function (12) is fashioned so that it brakes the home vehicle automatically to a standstill if the vehicle traveling in front comes to a stop.
4. The driver assistance system as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the acquisition device is a navigation system (26).
5. The driver assistance system as recited in Claim 4, wherein the navigation system (26) is an intelligent navigation system in which roadway characteristics are stored that indicate whether the preconditions for the assistance function (12) are met or not on the respective roadway.
6. The driver assistance system as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the acquisition device has a telematics receiving device (28).
7. The driver assistance system as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the acquisition device has a video sensor apparatus (42, 44) that is fashioned so as to recognize town entry signs (46) and town exit signs.